

# CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN VIRGINIA

## July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

### How many children were reported as victims of abuse or neglect in Virginia?

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017, there were **55,258** children reported as possible victims of abuse or neglect. They were participants in **36,894** completed reports that were accepted by Virginia's city and county departments of social services. There were **1,543** reports of substance-exposed newborns.

### Who reported suspicions of abuse or neglect to departments of social services?

The following individuals or entities reported suspected child abuse or neglect to departments of social services: Educators (21.6%); Law Enforcement/Legal/Courts (17.5%); relatives/parents (14.0%); anonymous (11.2%); Mental Health (10.6%); other categories (9.3%); medical community (9.1%); social services staff (5.9%); and child care providers (.7%).

### What were the outcomes of these reports?

There were **6,947** children in founded investigations. "Founded" means that a review of the facts gathered during an investigation met the "preponderance of the evidence" standard.

There were **9,796** children involved in unfounded investigations. "Unfounded" means that a review of the facts gathered during an investigation did not meet the "preponderance of the evidence" standard.

There were **38,515** children involved in reports that yielded family assessments. That means that Family Services Specialists engaged these families through the process of assessing their strengths and needs and developing and operationalizing a safety plan with each, as well as by ensuring the provision of supportive services, as appropriate.

### What were the types of maltreatment in *founded* investigations?

In some reports, more than one type of maltreatment may have occurred. Of all the instances of maltreatment in completed founded investigations, at least one allegation was substantiated for:

- **56.6%** of the maltreatment was due to physical neglect.
- **28.0%** of the maltreatment was due to physical abuse.
- **8.8%** of the maltreatment was due to sexual abuse.
- **3.3%** of the maltreatment was due to mental abuse/neglect.
- **2.0%** of the maltreatment was due to medical neglect.

### Who were the children in *founded* investigations?

#### AGE\*\*

- **32.4%** of all victims were children younger than 4
- **41.9%** of all victims were children aged 4-11
- **21.8%** of all victims were children aged 12-17

\*\*The age of 3.9% of the victims was unknown.

#### RACE\*\*\*

- **67.6%** of all victims were white
- **33.1%** of all victims were black
- **1.1%** of all victims were Asian

\*\*\*The race of .8% of the victims was American Indian, Native Hawaiian, or unknown. This category allows for multiple responses per child and thus may exceed 100%.

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### How many children died as a result of child abuse or neglect in SFY 2017?

- There were 120 investigations of child deaths due to suspected abuse or neglect that involved 120 children.
- Thirty-eight children died as a result of abuse or neglect.
- 101 (85%) of these children were age 3 years or younger.
- Thirty-one cases are pending as of 12-12-2017.

### Child Fatalities- SFY 2013 to SFY 2017<sup>1</sup>

Fiscal Year	Founded Fatalities	Unfounded Fatalities	Other (pending or appealed)	Total
<b>2017</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>120</b>
2016	46	80	3	129
2015	52	74	5	131
2014	47	74	3	124
2013	36	70	0	106

### Completed reports- SFY 2013 to SFY 2017

Fiscal Year	Founded Investigations	Unfounded Investigations	Family Assessments	Total Completed CPS Reports
<b>2017</b>	<b>4,230</b>	<b>6,817</b>	<b>25,847</b>	<b>36,894</b>
2016	4,113	6,482	23,282	33,877
2015	4,173	6,733	22,114	33,020
2014	4,312	6,728	21,867	32,907
2013	3,863	6,251	23,747	33,861

### Children in completed reports- SFY 2013 to SFY 2017

Fiscal Year	Founded	Unfounded	Family Assessment	Total
<b>2017</b>	<b>6,947</b>	<b>9,796</b>	<b>38,515</b>	<b>55,258</b>
2016	6,459	9,255	35,613	51,327
2015	6,592	9,467	33,809	49,868
2014	6,792	9,608	33,736	50,136
2013	6,205	8,848	36,293	51,346

### Ages of children in founded investigations- SFY 2013 to SFY 2017

Fiscal Year	Younger than 4 years of age	Ages 4 to 11	Ages 12-17	Unknown
<b>2017</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>4%</b>
2016	34%	43%	21%	3%
2015	32%	43%	21%	4%
2014	30%	43%	22%	5%
2013	30%	43%	23%	4%

<sup>1</sup> Data collected from Local Departments of Social Services as of 12-4-2017; previous years updated.

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services as of 12-4-2017 and Virginia Child Welfare Outcome Reports (VCWOR)

Retrieved December 2017